

Notice of 45-day Opportunity to Object, Plan Amendments for Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline on the Umpqua, Rogue River, and Winema National Forests

As the responsible official, I have participated as a cooperating agency in the preparation of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and prepared the draft Record of Decision (dROD) for the Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline Project Land and Resource Management Plan Amendments (LRMPs) for the Umpqua, Rogue River, and Winema National Forests. I have determined that three parts of the Forest Plans, where 15 standards and two plan-level land allocation adjustments would be modified by Forest Plan amendments, meet the substantive requirements of the FS planning regulations (36 CFR part 219); and can be implemented without impairing the long-term productivity of NFS lands. With the amended LRMPs, the Pacific Connector pipeline would be consistent with the Forest Plans. The draft decision is based on a review of the environmental analysis disclosed in the FEIS, the project record, Pacific Connector's proposed Plan of Development, comments from the public, partners, and other agencies, and a consideration of the 36 CFR part 219 requirements for amending a Forest Plan.

This project disclosed the environmental impacts associated with 17 amendments to the LRMPs for the Umpqua, Rogue River, and Winema National Forests, as amended by the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) to accommodate the Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline Project (PCGP) project. My decision is based on the proposed action described in Chapter 2 of the FEIS. The proposed action will make provision for 30.6 miles of the Pacific Connector pipeline route to cross National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the above-mentioned Forests. The areas affected by this decision include approximately 591 acres of lands associated with the proposed construction of the Pacific Connector pipeline project and approximately 186 acres associated with the proposed permanent right-of-way (ROW) for the pipeline project, which would cross approximately 10.8 miles on the Umpqua National Forest in Douglas County, 13.7 miles on the Rogue River National Forest in Jackson County, and 6 miles on the Winema National Forest in Klamath County. The dROD, FEIS, and supporting documents are available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=28132>. For additional information, email: david.krantz@usda.gov, or regular mail: David Krantz, Project Manager, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, 3040 Biddle Rd., Medford, OR 97504; telephone 541-618-2082.

Decisions by the Forest Service to approve "project-specific" plan amendments (proposed amendments FS-1, UNF-1 thru 3, RRNF-2 thru 6, and WNF-1 thru 5) are subject to the Administrative Review Process of 36 CFR 218 Subpart A and B, in accordance with 36 CFR 219.59 (b). The term "project specific" refers to amendments that would only apply to the proposed project and would not apply to any future management actions. Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

At a minimum, objections must include the following (§218.8(d)):

- (1) List the name, address, and if possible, a telephone number of the objector;
- (2) Provide a signature or other verification of authorship (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);
- (3) Identify the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection;
- (4) Provide the name of the project being objected to, the name and title of the responsible official, and the name of the National Forest on which the project is located;
- (5) A description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project; if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and;
- (6) A statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunity(ies) for comment.

Timely filing: It is the objector's responsibility to insure timely filing (36 CFR 218.9 and 218.26). Objections must be filed with the reviewing officer within 45-calendar days following the publication date of the legal notice of opportunity to object in the News-Review, Mail Tribune, Herald and News for the Umpqua, Rogue River, and Winema National Forests, respectively. This publication date is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to file an objection should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source.

Mail objections to: Regional Forester, Objection Reviewing Officer, Pacific Northwest Region, Attn: 1570 Appeals, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208-3623. Mailed objections must be postmarked by the end of the objection period and received before close of the fifth business day following the end of the objection period (36 CFR 218.9).

Email: Objections can be filed electronically at: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=28132>. Attachments must be submitted in Microsoft Word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf) only.

Hand-delivery: Objections can be hand delivered to the Pacific Northwest Regional Office, 1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon, between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday except legal holidays. Please note that this is a new physical address as of September, 2013.

Fax: Objections can be faxed to the Regional Forester, Attn: 1570 Objections at (503) 808-2339. Please verify receipt.

Alice B. Carlton, Forest Supervisor and Responsible Official, Umpqua National Forest

November 22, 2019

Notice of 60-day Opportunity to Object, Plan Amendments for Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline on the Umpqua, Rogue River, and Winema National Forests

As the responsible official, I have participated as a cooperating agency in the preparation of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and prepared the draft Record of Decision (dROD) for the Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline Project Land and Resource Management Plan Amendments (LRMPs) for the Umpqua, Rogue River, and Winema National Forests. I have determined that three parts of the Forest Plans, where 15 standards and two plan-level land allocation adjustments would be modified by Forest Plan amendments, meet the substantive requirements of the FS planning regulations (36 CFR part 219); and can be implemented without impairing the long-term productivity of NFS lands. With the amended LRMPs, the Pacific Connector pipeline would be consistent with the Forest Plans. The draft decision is based on a review of the environmental analysis disclosed in the FEIS, the project record, Pacific Connector's proposed Plan of Development, comments from the public, partners, and other agencies, and a consideration of the 36 CFR part 219 requirements for amending a Forest Plan.

This project disclosed the environmental impacts associated with 17 amendments to the LRMPs for the Umpqua, Rogue River, and Winema National Forests, as amended by the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) to accommodate the Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline Project (PCGP) project. My decision is based on the proposed action described in Chapter 2 of the FEIS. The preferred alternative will make provision for 30.6 miles of the Pacific Connector pipeline route to cross National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the above-mentioned Forests. The areas affected by this decision include approximately 591 acres of lands associated with the proposed construction of the Pacific Connector pipeline project and approximately 186 acres associated with the proposed permanent right-of-way (ROW) for the pipeline project, which would cross approximately 10.8 miles on the Umpqua National Forest in Douglas County, 13.7 miles on the Rogue River National Forest in Jackson County, and 6 miles on the Winema National Forest in Klamath County. The dROD, FEIS, and supporting documents are available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=28132>. For additional information, email: david.krantz@usda.gov, or regular mail: David Krantz, Project Manager, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, 3040 Biddle Rd., Medford, OR 97504; telephone 541-618-2082.

The proposed Forest Service plan amendments are being developed in accordance with the planning regulations at 36 CFR 219 (2012). Decisions by the Forest Service to approve "plan level" amendments to Land Management Plans (proposed amendments UNF-4 and RRNF-7) are subject to the Pre-Decisional Administrative Review Process Regulations at 36 CFR 219 Subpart B. The term "plan level" refers to plan amendments that would apply to future management actions. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

An objection must include the following (36 CFR 219.54(c)):

- (1) The objector's name and address along with a telephone number or email address if available;
- (2) Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);
- (3) Identification of the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection (219.62). Verification of the identity of the lead objector if requested;
- (4) The name of the plan, plan amendment, or plan revision being objected to, and the name and title of the responsible official;
- (5) A statement of the issues and/or parts of the plan, plan amendment, or plan revision to which the objection applies;
- (6) A concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the proposed plan decision may be improved. If applicable, the objector should identify how the objector believes that the plan, plan amendment, or plan revision is inconsistent with law, regulation, or policy; and
- (7) A statement that demonstrates the link between prior substantive formal comments attributed to the objector and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment (219.53(a)).

Timely filing: It is the objector's responsibility to insure timely filing. Objections must be filed with the reviewing officer within 60-calendar days following the publication date of the legal notice of opportunity to object in the News-Review, Mail Tribune, Herald and News for the Umpqua, Rogue River, and Winema National Forests, respectively. This publication date is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to file an objection should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source.

Mail objections to: Regional Forester, Objection Reviewing Officer, Pacific Northwest Region, Attn: 1570 Appeals, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208-3623. Mailed objections must be postmarked by the end of the objection period and received before close of the fifth business day following the end of the objection period.

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